

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, April 25, 2013

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

1. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd, Commission Staff
- Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Herman DeBose and Phillip Chen
Approval of Minutes – Chair motion to approve March 2013 minutes, seconded, and carried.
MSC – Lubin/Askins

2. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Announcements** – Chairman Gasco asked for a moment of silence for a speedy recovery for Dennis O'Brien who is in the hospital. Dr. Perrou publically commended law enforcement for the brave sacrifices they face being first responders in crisis situations.
- **Executive Committee Report** – The meeting was held April 11, 2013. Commissioner Huffman reported on the following items:
 - a) Budget
 - b) New Intern from USC
 - c) Revise the Commission's bylaws
 - d) Annual retreat update
 - e) Conference announcements
- **CALMHBC Quarterly Meeting** – Commissioners Gasco, Lubin, Huffman and DeBose attended the CALMHBC (California Association of Local Boards and Commissions) meeting in Ontario, California April 18-19, 2013. Chairman Gasco expressed how important it is to meet with other boards and commissions. Chairman Gasco also reported that he was appointed as Chair of the CALMHBC bylaws committee. Richard Van Horn, Commissioner of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), spoke on what various counties can share with one another and discussed several ideas from other counties. Mr. Van Horn further reported that he will be the CALMHBC Liaison for the MHSOAC.
- **Public Relations** – Kathleen Piche, DMH Public Information Officer shared information about the National Campaign for Mental Health Awareness. Lime is the color for the mental health awareness campaign. Ms. Piche handed out lime green lapel pins and wrist bands. Ms. Piche

also announced New Profiles of Hope will be featured along with various events taking place during May is Mental Health Month.

3. **DMH Report – Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director, reported the following:**

- **Health Reform Readiness -**
 - a) The eight workgroups formed to address health care integration are going well.
 - b) The Health Neighborhood plan is at the public comment phase. Three communities targeted in the plan are South Los Angeles, Long Beach, and East Los Angeles. The plan will identify what principles should be used.
- **AB 109** – The AB 109 program is stabilizing in terms of numbers balancing. The number of parolees entering the program matches the number of graduates. Thirty five hundred enrolled of which 65% were referred to treatment and 20% have completed treatment. Dr. Southard also reported that there are new challenges for DMH; 1) the parolee process is being handled at the local level, and 2) care for mentally disordered offenders will cost counties \$150-200K while counties wait for legislature changes.
- **MHSA Annual Update** - Dr. Southard commented on the update stating that DMH developed a comprehensive plan for one of the most complicated counties in the nation, and it has made significant improvements in the following areas:
 - a) Reducing homelessness
 - b) Increasing independent living
 - c) More FSP slots to lower disenrollment
 - d) FCCS increased the need for clients to engage with community innovation about learning
 - e) What approach(s) contribute most to integrate health care and substance abuse
 - f) Made changes to data to better reflect improvements instead of bombshells.

Dr. Southard commended Commissioner Sofro on the perfect Connections for Life Conference held April 18 stating that the academic developments shared by the individuals were impressive. Speakers sincerely thanked employment specialists and rehabilitation coaches for support and attending the conference.

• **Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst**

Ms. Rajlal reported that she continues to meet with and inform community representatives about bills that support and enhance mental health services and funding. Ms. Rajlal also reported that she testified at senate hearings for funding intended for realignment in the CalWORKs

program; it was rejected by the senate. Ms. Rajlal handed out legislative information (SB 364-Steinberg) on Improvements to Section 5150 of Lanterman-Petris-Short. She further reported that the bill is intended to modernize Lanterman-Petris Short Act to improve access to mental health treatment in the following areas:

- a) Facility types – broaden types of facilities county can designate for 5150 purposes
- b) County procedures and training – develop procedures for county designation of LPS facilities and train professions who perform the function
- c) Field Assessment – Articulates that if a person can be assessed, evaluated and crisis intervention in the field can be conducted by designated professionals.
- d) Sharing of Information to Facilitate Referrals – Modernizes the law by adding legislative intent language to facilitate the sharing of information and records in accordance with welfare and institutions codes.
- e) Aligns Sequencing of Events – Aligns the sequencing of events within the statutory provisions of the LPS to provide clarify and improve consistency of application across the counties.
- f) County Services – post current list of ambulatory services on internet website
- g) Personal Rights – Adds legislative intent regarding the LPS Act to provide consistent standards for protection of the personal rights of persons receiving services under it.
- h) Telehealth – Clarifies that telehealth evaluations are permitted which will assist to ensure prompt evaluations.
- i) Updates Terminology – Updates the terminology used by using “people first” language and use the term mental health disorders and similar updating of language.

Chairman Gasco added that he commended the members of the LPS Recommendations Task Force and is pleased to hear that Senator Steinberg showed interest in the concerns expressed in their final decision.

4. **Mental Health Commission Deliberations of MHSA Annual Update**

Chairman Gasco called for the following motion:

Approve the MHSA Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Update

Motion moved by Commissioner Victoria Sofro, seconded by Commissioner Howard Askins, unanimously carried, this item was approved

5. Commissioners' Reports

- **Commissioner Delores Huffman** reported the number of housing units being constructed. Commissioner Huffman also reported that there is a new concept to decrease RFP withdrawals called "providers listening sessions." It gives providers the opportunity to define their issue for not completing RFPs. Commissioner Huffman further announced that the MHSA Housing Board is looking for new members.
- **Commissioner Howard Askins** commented the Indigent Medication Program graph submitted with the Clinical Snapshot was nice. Commissioner Askins explained that the 4-month lag indicated in the Clinical Snapshot is intended to assure accuracy and identify trends.
- **Commissioner Cooperberg** reported that the law enforcement training for the 600 personnel in Service Area 1 will begin May 9 and 16. Thirty-five people have already signed up. Commissioner Cooperberg also reported on the AV Motion meeting with Dr. Marvin J. Southard was encouraging. The group decided to further meet to develop a final document and that SAAC 1 should be involved in the collaboration. The action plan was approved.
- **Commissioner Sofro** commented that the Connections for Life Conference (CFL) is the end result of what services help people in employment and education. People can do what they choose to do with the additional help and support.
- **Commissioner Gasco** made comments on CFL and the Stepping In conference. Commissioner Gasco asked DMH to assist in identifying someone to represent SAAC 2 at the MHC/SAAC Chairs and the full Commission meetings.

6. SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC

SAAC Reports

SAAC 1 – Jean Harris, SAAC Co-chair reported that the SAAC 1 meeting was postponed to attend the public hearing.

SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks reported that SAAC 6 is using evidence based practices to evaluate PEI centers so that they are culturally correct.

SAAC 8 – John Czernek reported that 2 SAAC members attended the public hearing and the SAAC leadership training with Steve Goodwin, and are also working on the MHSA suicide project.

Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC) – Pam Inaba thanked Commissioner Sofro, the Commission, and the CFL Planning committee for a very successful experience while she facilitated the resource table at the conference. Ms. Inaba stated that the planning members treated her very nice and provided great customer service. Clients, peers, staff and employees stopped by the LACCC resource table to meet her.

Ms. Inaba invited everyone to register to attend the Innovations in Recovery Conference on June 3.

7. **Public Comments –**

William Legere – More DMH jobs for people with non-behavioral degrees (i.e., MBA, BS in BA, etc.)

Patricia A. Russell – I am concerned about the Jail Mental Health inmates. I have learned that they do not have access to the Education Based Incarceration (EBI) opportunities for 1) education classes, 2) art and music classes, 3) occupational training, 4) computer class and use, 5) other opportunities. The only group is one substance dependence group a week. I spoke to Sargent Kirtley. She told me that the DMH runs Jail Mental Health part of Twin Towers and recommended that I speak to DMH. She said it is a funding issue. I would like to know what can be done about this. I believe that inmates with brain disorder should have access to these opportunities while they are incarcerated in Jail Mental Health. They need and deserve this.

I am told my son would have to be moved to another part of Twin Towers, outside Jail Mental Health, I have these opportunities. He needs to stay where he is for his mental health needs according to his clinician Dr. Richard Weiss. Please call me to give me feedback or for any information that would be helpful.

Robert Coto – Information on May is Mental Health month

Dennis R. Miller – 1) Party for my dentist creating me a new smile at my church in Glendale, 2) California network in Sacramento (people lost their jobs and future), 3) a big earthquake is predicted to happen another 17 years. Earthquake and disaster preparedness at our church in Glendale, 4) Dennis O'Brien hospitalized in intensive care.

Sawako Nitao – Asian Coalition has been structured for the fiscal year as well as Latino Coalition. I would like to propose that Black Coalition need to be structured for big election for candidates as chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. This is a very grassroots item but it is good for providing members for the coalition. There are so many black veteran mental health clients in SAAC 4. It is good to invite them in the black coalition.

Joseph DeGuerre – What are we going to do about patient dumping in lieu of the recent news reports?

Maria Tan – Announcement: Medical Eligibility and Medical share of Cost meetings, May 2, 2013.

8. **Meeting adjourned/NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, May 23, 2013

11 am – 1:30

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd